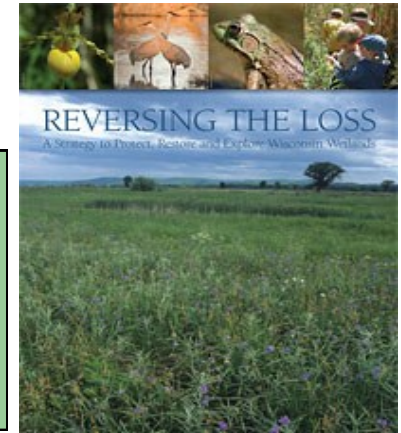


Reversing the Loss

2013-2014 Wisconsin Wetland Team Priorities & Action Plan

The Wisconsin Wetland Team has identified the following key priorities and actions team organizations will work on in 2013 and 2014. This Action Plan recognizes that the condition of our economy and our water resources in the state are changing and that we must adapt to accomplish the state's overarching vision to *Reverse the Loss* of Wisconsin's wetland resources. To learn more about the strategy visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wetlands/strategy.html>.



WI Wetland Team Priority

ONE: Monitor and assess the status of Wisconsin wetlands so decision makers have the best possible information on the extent, type, and health of our state's wetlands and the ecosystem services they provide. Assessment tools also provide the means to identify trends in wetland status.

This priority addresses *Reversing the Loss* Strategic Goals 6 and 7 and EPA Core Element - Monitoring and Assessment.



- a. Develop methods to monitor reference wetlands.
- b. Prepare annual report for trackable wetland gains & losses.
- c. Map and digitize WI Wetland Inventory maps for six counties and incorporate into the National Wetland Inventory.
- d. Conduct wetland change analysis in Juneau, Monroe and Wood counties, and parts of southeastern Wisconsin.
- b. Analyze field data to complete Wisconsin Intensification Study.
- c. Develop biologic indicators of wetland condition.

TWO: Develop a watershed approach for wetland restoration & protection using inventory and assessment data to better understand the roles wetlands play within watersheds and to help determine goals for wetland restoration and protection that address watershed needs.

This priority address *Reversing the Loss* Strategic Goals, 3, 4, 5 and 7 and EPA Core Elements - Regulatory, Voluntary Restoration & Protection, Monitoring and Assessment.



- a. Apply watershed approach tools to wetlands within targeted watersheds.
- b. Incorporate wetlands protection and restoration into DNR Watershed and TMDL implementation plans.
- c. Assess the dollar value of wetland ecosystem services.
- d. Implement watershed approach to state Wetland Compensatory Mitigation Program.
- e. Participate in EPA's Healthy Watersheds Initiative Pilot by providing wetland assessment data.



WI Wetland Team Priority

THREE: Improve wetland regulatory approaches so they are straight-forward, fair and understandable to the public to ensure the state continues to maintain a strong and effective program that fully protects against wetland loss and degradation.

This priority addresses *Reversing the Loss* Strategic Goal 4 and EPA Core Element - Regulatory.

FOUR: Increase wetland conservation on private lands by sustaining, promoting and delivering voluntary wetland restoration programs to private landowners, sharing expert knowledge on restoration techniques and by reducing barriers to improve state property tax for wetland conservation. Wetland restoration benefits extend well beyond private land boundaries to provide intrinsic functions and values for wildlife, water quality, and flood abatement.

This priority addresses *Reversing the Loss* Strategic Goal 2 and EPA Core Element - Voluntary Restoration & Protection

WI Wetland Team Actions

- a. Monitor and assess effectiveness of new wetland permit program.
- b. Develop and implement Wetland Identification Program per 2009 Wisconsin Act 373.
- c. Identify & provide solutions for wetland protection gaps in stormwater, wastewater, drinking water, and CAFO programs.
- d. Develop an In-Lieu Fee Program per 2012 Wisconsin Act 118.
- e. Incorporate NR 40 and Wetland Invasive Best Management Practices into regulatory programs.
- f. Update and implement Guidelines for Wetland Compensatory Mitigation in Wisconsin for consistent approach among agencies.
- g. Issue general permits under revised state wetland regulations.

- a. Develop outreach, marketing, and promotional strategies for wetland conservation opportunities.
- b. Reduce barriers and increase incentives for wetland conservation.
- c. Track and monitor wetland restorations to increase knowledge and improve restoration effectiveness.



WI Wetland Team Priority

FIVE: Prevent and control wetland invasive species by developing a strategic plan specific for wetland invasive species and utilizing successful control methods currently in practice.

This priority addresses *Reversing the Loss* Strategic Goals 4, 5 and 7 and EPA Core Elements - Monitoring & Assessment and Voluntary Restoration & Protection.



- Revise and implement Wetlands Invasive Species Control Strategy throughout Wisconsin.
- Update and Implement invasive species regulations (NR 40) and examine other species classification.
- Develop and implement Wetland Invasive Species Best Management Practices.
- Secure continued funding for wetland invasive species control.

SIX: Increase wetland ecosystem resiliency by utilizing the understanding of land use and climate change to strategically restore wetlands where they can buffer the impacts on the landscape and infrastructure of WI. Take management actions to ensure wetlands continue to provide adequate plant and wildlife habitat.

This priority addresses *Reversing the Loss* Strategic Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 and EPA Core Element - Monitoring and Assessment.



- Continue to engage the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts and FWS Landscape Conservation Cooperative to understand and quantify wetland impacts to move forward with adaptation strategies.
- Submit our research recommendations to the Northeast Climate Science Center.
- Integrate climate change considerations into watershed based pilot projects to restore wetlands as an adaptation strategy to minimize climate change impacts.
- Evaluate the fish, wildlife, and plants sections of the National Climate Adaptation Plan.
- Evaluate damages from flooding and drought and relate to cost of wetland restoration.
- Promote wetland preservation and restoration as an adaptation strategy to minimize climate change impacts from flooding and drought.

WI Wetland Team Actions



WI Wetland Team Priority

SEVEN: Team up for wetland conservation by facilitating and engaging new and existing partners to take a more active role in wetland protection, restoration and exploration in Wisconsin.

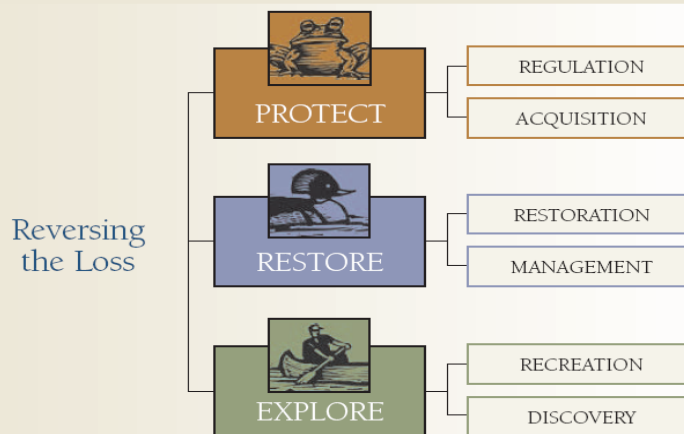
This priority addresses all eight *Reversing the Loss* Strategic Goals and all four EPA Core Elements.



WI Wetland Team Actions

- a. Provide recommendations to local governments on how they can increase wetland protection in their communities.
- a. Provide outreach to public and tribal land managers about the tools available for wetland stewardship including Potential Restorable Wetlands.
- a. Promote “Explore Wisconsin Wetlands”.
- b. Team with universities to further wetland research & education.
- c. Seek federal & state grant funding for wetland conservation.

Wisconsin's Wetland Strategy



Wisconsin Wetland Team

- * Ducks Unlimited
- * Natural Resources Foundation of WI
- * Oneida Nation of Wisconsin
- * Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- * The Nature Conservancy
- * University of Wisconsin—Extension
- * U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- * U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- * U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- * USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- * WI Coastal Management Program
- * WI County Code Administrators
- * WI Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection
- * WI Department of Natural Resources
- * WI Department of Transportation
- * WI Waterfowl Association
- * WI Wetlands Association
- * WI Wildlife Federation
- * Joy Zedler, Restoration Ecologist